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STATE COUNCIL

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CTW, CLC

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Statement by Paul Filson, Director of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Connecticut State Council concerning Bill 842 – AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS ON LEGISLATION AFFECTING EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE.– Before the Committee on Commerce

Good Afternoon, Co-Chairs, Senator Lebeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee - I appreciate the opportunity to be here before you today. My name is Paul Filson and I am Director of SEIU's Connecticut State Council. The State Council represents over 55,000 members including 13,000 active retired members in Connecticut. SEIU is Connecticut's largest union. We are the largest health care union, building service union, and we represent the most state employees. SEIU also represents police officers, municipal workers, bus drivers and community college professors and staff. The State Council coordinates the political activity for SEIU in Connecticut.

Bill No. 842 increases accountability and places a reality check regarding jobs, job growth and job destruction before legislation is implemented. However, raised bill 842 does not go far enough and needs to be fine tuned before it can be a truly useful tool within any fiscal analysis. Perhaps the most important task before the General Assembly is the passage of a budget. A jobs impact statement should be attached to the budget and its various sections. The General Assembly debates and considers a biennial budget that is designed to provide essential services and to create opportunities for Connecticut to grow and become a great place to live. Often this debate takes place without enough transparency and without a total understanding about the implications the budget might have on the single most important requirement for Connecticut – the retention and creation of jobs.

Today we continue to face the continuing unemployment as a result of a massive economic recession brought on by unbridled greed and lack of regulation and accountability within our financial markets. The State of Connecticut must do everything in its power to make sure every person in Connecticut who wants to work can find a decent job with benefits.

The following language ought to be added to **842** for real transparency and impact: